

### Course Planning with Purple Pen (PP)

PP is a freeware program that provides an alternative to *OCAD* in setting orienteering courses. The software is a Windows application but it's possible to run it on Linux or Mac. The program is easy to use and can import both *OCAD* and *Open Orienteering Mapper* maps. PP is being increasingly used by NOC and other clubs across the international community.

If you want to use PP for planning NOC events you must ensure you use the approved NOC PP template file that will have the correct scale, correct control circle and control line specifications, and the correct colour mix for overprinting. You can obtain this file from the club's [mapping officer](#) (currently Geoff Todkill).

(See a separate document on the Resources page - *Setting Bush Courses at the Correct Standard* - to ensure your planned courses are appropriate for the Very Easy, Easy, Moderate and Hard standard).

After [downloading the PP program](#), choose "Purple Pen help" from the "help" menu to learn the basics. These You Tube videos will also help you:

[Tutorial from Columbia River Orienteering Club](#) , [Video from Gordon Bossley](#) .

#### *How to add a marked (taped) route.*

You can add a marked route for the beginning, end, or for the full route between controls. Select the line between controls on a course, then from the top drop down menu it's "Item" then "Leg Flagging". If you add a bend to the line between controls (top drop down, bent purple line = "Add Bend") you can then add a marked route before or after the bend point ("Beginning of Leg Flagged"/"End of Leg Flagged").

### Course Planning with OCAD9

*OCAD9* allows course planning with a map background that's also in *OCAD9* format. A copy of *OCAD9* can be obtained from NOC's mapping officer. While it's an older piece of software it can still provide an adequate course planning experience. However, both PP and the current version of *OCAD* (available only via a licence) are easier to use and have a range of features not available on *OCAD9*.

You must use the approved NOC *OCAD* planning template file to ensure the correct settings are used. You can obtain this file from the club's [mapping officer](#) (currently Geoff Todkill).

See the link to *OCAD9* help on the *Resources* page for detailed advice about course planning with *OCAD9*.